

Message Text

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PAGE 01 COLOMB 00434 131145Z

47

ACTION CU-03

INFO OCT-01 NEA-09 ISO-00 USIA-06 /019 W

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R 131118Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2230

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E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: OEXC, CE

SUBJ: FY 75 IVP INVITATION TO ANURA BANDARANAIKE

REF: COLOMBO 3142, NOVEMBER 8, 1974

1. PRIME MINISTER'S SON, ANURA BANDARANAIKE, CAME IN TO SEE AMBASSADOR FEBRUARY 13 AND ASKED WHETHER IT WOULD BE CONVENIENT TO POSTPONE HIS VISIT TO UNITED STATES FROM APRIL TO MAY. BANDARANAIKE GAVE SEVERAL REASONS FOR REQUESTING POSTPONEMENT. HE WAS SCHEDULED TO VISIT PRC FOR ABOUT A WEEK IN MARCH. HE ALSO MIGHT BE ASKED TO ACCOMPANY HIS MOTHER ON HER PLANNED VISIT THIS SPRING TO BURMA, MALAYSIA AND THAILAND. ANOTHER REASON WAS DESIRE TO BE IN SRI LANKA DURING APRIL AS THERE MIGHT BE MOVE WITHIN SLFP TO "TAKE OVER" HIS NEWSPAPER, ADHA, ON GROUNDS PERSONAL NEWSPAPERS WERE NOT COMPATIBALE WITH PARTY UNITY. SUCH ACTION WOULD ALSO AFFECT JANAVEGAYA, PUBLISHED BY HIS BROTHER-IN-LAW, KUMAR RUPASINGHE, BUT JANAVEGAYA HAD LOW CIRCULATION AS COMPARED WITH ADHA'S GROWING NUMBER OF READERS.

2. AMBASSADOR TOLD BANDARANAIKE THAT POSTPONEMENT WOULD NOT CAUSE ANY INCONVENIENCE TO US AND WE WERE PLEASED HE WAS STAILL PLANNING TO VISIT UNITED STATES. BANDARANAIKE SAID THAT HE WOULD LIKE TO PLAN IN TERMS OF ARRIVAL IN WASHINGTON ABOUT MAY 12 TO BEGIN VISIT OF ABOUT THREE WEEKS DURATION.

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PAGE 02 COLOMB 00434 131145Z

VAN HOLLEN

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NNN

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